

Have You Been Caught in the devil's Honeypot?

Revelation 2:14

There is a French saying; "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose". or "The more things change, the more they stay the same". And when you consider international relations, you can see this all too clearly.

In a Huffindton Post article, March 20, 2012. "Anna Chapman, Russian Spy, Allegedly 'Got Close' To Obama's Inner Circle", some disturbing facts are revealed. It seems that our post cold war friends still have some nasty habits surfacing. And as time goes on; there seem to be more, not less of them coming up. And now that their presidential election is over, these incidents will probably increase. So what exactly are the Russians up to this time?

The article says, "In a recent interview with the BBC, one of the FBI's top brass suggested that redheaded beauty Anna Chapman—a Russian agent sent home in 2010 as part of the biggest spy swap since the Cold War—was "close enough to the administration's inner-circle to disturb" the FBI, according to head of counterintelligence Frank Figliuzzi.

According to Figliuzzi, the spy ring was "getting close enough to a sitting US cabinet member that we thought we could no longer allow this to continue," although he would not identify the official in question. Chapman, who allegedly worked undercover in Manhattan real estate, was arrested on June 27, 2010."

This is one of the oldest traps of the devil; and one of his most successful.

And so it is used time after time. Everyone knows those who have fallen into ruin and loss of reputation. But when it happens to believers, especially leaders; it causes a lot of trouble. Many careers, churches and ministries have been destroyed; not to mention the families and marriages that are wrecked. Our Lord Jesus Christ accurately indentified the mastermind behind all these ploys. John 10:10

Now, if the devil hits us head-on, hopefully it doesn't take too long to catch on before we fight back. The devil's preferred method is to attack from an oblique angle, seemingly harmless at first. Like the ancient Chinese general, Sun Tzu who said, "deception is the art of war". And there is no better one at it, than the devil. By playing on human weaknesses, he exploits his advantages; trying to bring about total ruin of God's people. And then he applies the coup-de-grace; by telling them that God won't

forgive them, and that they have also lost their salvation. And with a little more pushing, he strives to get them to self-destruct.

Lyle Brennan wrote in the Mail Online, April 10, 2012: "The suicide forest of Japan: Mount Fuji beauty spot where up to 100 bodies are found every year".

That's how desperate people are getting these days. But for those who are in this position; don't give up. Call out to Our Lord Jesus Christ; He will help you. Matthew 11: 28 to 30 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

And as for believers; when we sin, we do not lose our salvation. We have 1John 1: 9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Bible does show us how the devil works. Balaam is a classic example of how a supposedly godly prophet is used to bring down God's people.

Revelation 2:14 - But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Numbers 25 is the account. And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel. And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel. And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor. And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel. Now the name of the Israelite that was slain, even that was slain with the Midianitish woman, was Zimri, the son of Salu, a prince of a chief house among the Simeonites. And the name of the Midianitish woman that was slain was Cozbi, the daughter of Zur; he was head over a people, and of a chief house in Midian. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Vex the Midianites, and smite them: For they vex you with their wives, wherewith they have beguiled you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a prince of Midian, their sister, which was slain in the day of the plague for Peor's sake.

And there's another example; Samson.

Judges 16: 4 to 21 - And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth , and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver. And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth , and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee. And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them. Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known. And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And there were liars in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread. And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web. And she

fastened it with the pin, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awaked out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web. And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth . And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man. And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand. And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him. But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

In the New Testament, this was a major problem; as the new Gentile converts came from idolatry; and most of them were steeped in ungodly sexual practices. And the Early Church Leaders dealt with it quickly.

Acts 15: 19 & 20 - Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

As followers of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we have a higher calling. 1Thessalonians 5: 22 - Abstain from all appearance of evil.

So when the devil sets you up to step into a honeypot; Remember Paul's advice in 2 Timothy 2: 22 - Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

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